

CRACKLIN' STATIC



SIERRA NEVADA Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

RENO, NEVADA

SUMMER 2016

FIELD DAY 2016 SPECIAL EDITION

This special Field Day edition of CRACKLIN' STATIC contains no President's Voice, no masthead, no minutes or technical articles, calendars, etc., just the story and photos of SNARS Field Day, 2016, the highs, the lows, and the people who made it happen. No official stuff, just FD! Read on, and enjoy.....73, Howie WB2AWQ

This year SNARS set up Field Day again at Washoe Lake State Park, but in the equestrian section. While the pavilion was smaller, it was certainly adequate for our needs. The area, however, had no decent trees to which antennas could be fastened. This set the stage for one amazing antenna support system! Read on.....

THE BEAST

Without a doubt, the single most memorable part of SNARS' 2016 Field Day effort had to be Jim Shepherd's (W6US) massive tower. Read on, as Jim describes the tower, and setup at Washoe Lake. In Jim's words:

The View from the Top – The Tower Trailer

The first thing everyone saw as they approached the Field Day site was a tall tower with a tribander beam on top. When they walked in to center camp, the whole system filled the area north of the shelter. A 70' tower sitting on a 29' trailer with outriggers, 12 stainless steel guy wires anchored at 80' and 90' from the tower, a ladder leading to the retracted level, and 2 each 200 watt solar panels, 9000 pounds of aluminum, steel, batteries and equipment.

When we found out that we would not have the group area by the boat launch back in February and would be up at the equestrian area, the lack of trees meant that we

were going to have to really work to get antennas up in the air. I volunteered to bring the tower trailer to provide a high point for wire antennas as well as using a tribander for contacts on 20, 15 and 10 meters. Two weeks later, while raising the tower for the ARRL SSB DX Contest out at my place in Winnemucca, a cable broke, and the tower telescoped down causing grievous damage and turning my tribander into an inverted 'U'



Tower damage after collapse (W6US)

Once I determined that I was not going to be able to repair that tower before Field Day, I decided to swap the tower out with the one off of my other trailer.... With the help of Danny, KG7QIA, we did a tower swap. Some parts had been cannibalized, and there were some minor problems, but I was able to get it working to the 70' level. The middle section had a small cable kink and with some extra noise and a high current reading on the hoist, so I decided not to use it at this time. Got 4 new tires under the trailer, everything loaded up and it was ready to transport on the Monday before Field Day. On Wednesday, I brought it to my house in Sparks, loaded up all the other equipment and a new tribander and then hauled it out to Washoe on Friday morning.



The tower before being raised (KK7YW)

I had a great crew to help me set it up on Friday and Saturday morning. Jim Case K7ASE, Dennis Bergstrom KB7VU, and Tom Porada KK7YW did a great job setting the guys and helping with the entire process. By dark on Friday night we had the tower upright, the tribander mounted and set in the right direction to match the rotor, and the lower set of guys installed and flagged.



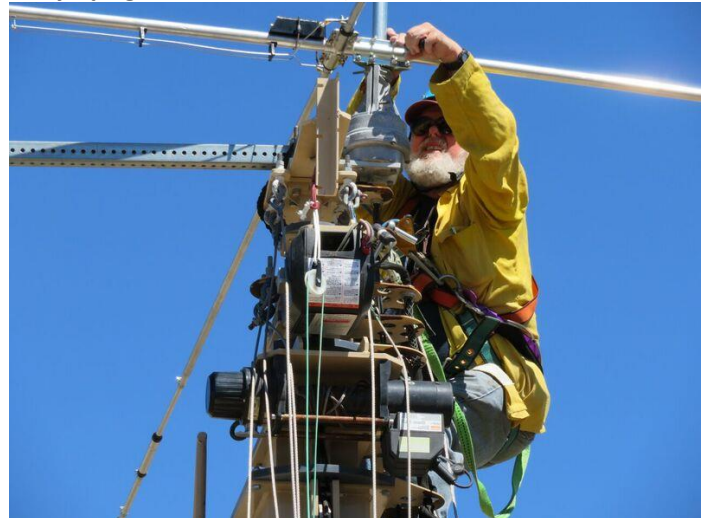
The tribander beam being attached (KK7YW)



On its way up....(KK7YW)



Fully upright not extended (KK7YW)



W6US making adjustments to the beam (KK7YW)

After breakfast on Saturday morning we ran up the upper section, set those guys and pulled up a G5RV that was hooked to the 40' north mast on Peter's antenna system and the 50' section on the tower. At the 70' level I had a halyard that was used to pull up the ends of our CW operator's antennas. I had a third halyard available to put up other antennas if needed.



The tower as it stood for Field Day 2016 (W6US)

The trailer has 2 each 200 watt solar panels, and solar power was used to erect the tower and to run the Digital station and my Voice station including the computers and tower rotor. 600 AHr of batteries helped, but I was unable to get optimum sunlight on the panels due to the shade structure and the ladder/tower shading one panel so we dropped to 12 volts by 9pm and switched to generator power.

I also put up a wind generator that was capable of putting out 30 amps, but for a change, the wind did not blow in Washoe Valley.

I had the same good crew and a few others to help tear down on Sunday and we cleared the site by 4:30. Tuesday, I hauled the trailer back out to Winnemucca to finish up Field Day 2016.

Jim, W6US

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF FIELD DAY? FOOD!

Judy Carlson, KE6GIW took on the enormous task of feeding 35 hungry hams for Field Day weekend. Anyone

who has done this or similar knows the challenges and difficulties! The largest meals were Saturday lunch, Saturday BBQ, to which all SNARS members were invited, and Sunday breakfast. In addition to the food was an enormous quantity and wide variety of cold drinks, absolutely necessary for success in the High Desert with 90-95 degree temperatures.



Judy KE6GIW, the star of the food court....(WB2AWQ)



Judy and assistants setting up (KK7YW)



Judy with Perry KG7ZPA set up a meal (N7MSK)



Dinner on its way Judy and Steve KS6A serve KE7VSR (N7MSK)



WB2AWQ and W6US chow down breakfast (N7MSK)

THE STATIONS

Food notwithstanding, Field Day is really all about the stations, and the communications made with them. Operating independent from local AC power and away from our homes presents some unique challenges which FD stations have to overcome. Think antennas with no good means of support, the heat of the day then the cold of the night, bugs, possible storms, wind, etc. It's a far cry from operating in one's living room or comfy ham shack.



Peter KE7VSR and Judy KE6GIW operate 40 phone (N7MSK)



Burgers and dogs....KG7ZPA doing grill duty (N7MSK)

Of course, even Judy couldn't do all this alone. From Judy: "I had help cooking from Perry Capman, KG7ZPA, Craig Eyre KE7AY, and Steve Johnson KS6A. Jim Shepard also helped with the planning and brought some very helpful cookware. I was so glad to use Jim's slicer for the Onions and Tomatoes.

Steve Johnson deserves a great applause for all his work. He and I shopped at Costco and Walmart for the food.

Also a Thank you to John Miller for the use of his Very Large Ice Chest."



Peter's antenna was strung between 3 towers. (N7MSK)



Good view of Peter's station (KE6GIW)



Tom KK7YW on PSK (WB2AWQ)



Jim W6US and Jim K7ASE on 20 phone (WB2AWQ)



One phone station, running off batteries, using the club's Yaesu FT-450 ((N7MSK)



John W7KEZ, Dave KF7EGU, Rosalyn AE6WT on phone (WB2AWQ)



KB2SFS working 40 CW from the "Leper Colony" 75 yards away from the main group (WB2AWQ)



Ken KB2SFS (foreground) and WB2AWQ working CW from whence comes most of the QSO score. (WB2AWQ)



It also doubles as an additional phone station. SNARS Prez Tony W7XM at the mike. (N7MSK)

Miscellanea



A mini keyboard and a smartphone APP and you're logging! 40CW setup. (KB2SFS)



Might not be Ham Radio but such a pretty sight! Wild horses at Washoe Lake (WB2AWQ)



The sign-in and publicity area, manned by various SNARS members. (N7MSK)



Our own "Marhsall Dillon" Mike N7MSK AKA Sheriff! Mike was the SNARS FD Safety Officer. (N7MSK)



Even the Sheriff needs his rest....(KK7YW)



More from the tower raising – line handlers working the all-important guys. (KK7YW)



Two generators powered all but the CW area (N7MSK)



More line handlers. (KK7YW)



Power controller for the tower trailer (N7MSK)



Line handlers working the guy anchors. Note the hard hats and gloves. (N7MSK)



Besides solar power, the batteries were also charged by wind power. W6US and KK7YW installing a wind turbine on the tower trailer. (KB2SFS)



WB2AWQ sleeping after 5000 – or was it 300 – QSOs on CW. Payback is gonna be rough.....(KB2SFS)



A half-moon seems to be holding up a G5RV....(N7MSK)



Sunday morning sunrise greets the Sierras on the far side of Washoe Valley (KB2SFS)

REPORT AS SUBMITTED TO THE ARRL BY STEVE JOHNSON KS6A

ARRL Field Day Entry Form

Datestamp: 2016-07-01 12:27:06 PDT

Call Used: W7TA GOTA Station Call: (none) ARRL/RAC Section: NV Class: 7A

Participants: 35 Club/Group Name: Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

Power Source(s): Generator, Solar

Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	700
Media Publicity	100

Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Social media	100
Safety officer	100
Total Bonus Points	1,450

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	508	43	171		
Total Points	1016	86	171	1273	Claimed Score = 2,546

Submitted by:

Steve Johnson, KS6A
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 Reno, Nevada 89523
 E-mail: ks6a@sbcglobal.net

Comments:

This submission supersedes submission number fcd49dbdc876bb05. The solar powered station operated for five hours.

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	155	150	2	150	27	150
40m	181	150	22	150	90	150
20m	172	150	19	150	54	150
15m						
10m						
6m						
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA						
TOTAL	508		43		171	

Supporting documentation for Bonus Points will be sent via e-mail to: fieldday@arrl.org

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO SNARS FIELD DAY 2016

A Field Day like SNARS put on can only take place if a lot of people do a ton of work to make it all come together. Steve KS6A and Jim W6US, who headed up the Field Day operation did a fantastic job, coordinating every last detail (And Steve made some great scrambled eggs Sunday morning!) Judy KE6GIW kept us all well fed and thoroughly watered for the duration. The crew who helped erect the tower put on a peerless performance, worthy of the highest praise. And the operators, assistants, other participants made this a most memorable Field Day. The SNARS board enthusiastically supported Field Day, and authorized the necessary funding to make it happen. And my personal thanks to Jim W6US for his story of the tower, and all who submitted such great photos: Mike N7MSK, Tom KK7YW, Ken KB2SFS, Jim W6US, and Judy KE6GIW. This all made my job of documenting it so very easy!!! 73, Howie WB2AWQ